

Washington, May 17th 1852

My dear Sir,

I duly received your report upon the plants which were forwarded from El Paso in June last, and should have written to you sooner to say how much I was gratified by it, but that, from day to day, I was expecting the other collection brought by me from El Paso in December last to Indianaola, & left there in February for shipment to this place. This last I received a few days ago. It consists of two large leather paniers filled with dried specimens of plants, & some seeds, and a small box containing about 280 packages of seeds. The paniers are

marked with my initials and numbered 31, and 32. The box is numbered 4, and is directed to you at Cambridge. I have shipped them to you this morning, upon the Schooner P. Patterson, bound for Boston, & you may expect to receive them in about a week from this time, as the vessel will sail today. The keys of the leather paniers are in the box N^o. 4 containing the seeds. They are numbered 31 & 32.

By giving the keys a half turn, & then working the lids of the paniers, right & left, they will come open.

All these plants were collected in a journey from El Paso to the Copper Mines of Santa Rita, (called by the Mexicans, "Santa Rita del Cobre"), from thence into the northern part of Sonora in

Mexico, as far as Santa Cruz, - thence back by another route, to the Cobre or Copper Mines, and thence to El Paso, - performed between the 26th of July and 10th of November 1857.

I have taken out a few seeds from each package, which are now being planted by Mr. Brackbridge who has charge of the public grounds here. I thought this judicious, as it will multiply the chances of rearing the plants from the seeds. Whatever grows from them will be scrupulously reserved for your examination and description. The rest of the seeds I please distribute as you may think proper. I trust you will find a

number of novelties amongst this collection,
and I should be much gratified if you
could continue your report upon them
as rapidly as convenient. It will
tend to encourage liberality in Congress
towards these branches of science, colla-
teral to the Government surveys and
explorations that may be hereafter set
on foot.

I must thank you for the compliment you
have been pleased to pay me in the naming
of one of the new plants, though I feel I have
hardly a legitimate claim to it. I cer-
tainly did all in my power to promote the
collections in this branch and also in zoölogy
without any pretence to knowledge in either
of these branches of natural science.

I remain, Dear Sir, with
great regard, Your most
ob. servt.
J. D. Graham

Prof. A. A. Gray
1843